175, 113

RB5 Lithuania

[For the history of the relations between Lithuania and Russia from 1340-1569, see 7: Bregy and Obolensky, RD1 Ukraine, category 116, pp. 53-63.]

113, 175

Lithuania RB5

[For historical data on Lithuanian-Ukrainian relations see:
4: Allen RD1 Ukraine, cat. 116, pp. 41-52; 56-58;--Analyst]

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

101 *Preussen;* Latin *Borusi*), Latvians (Lithuanian *latviai;* German *Letten*), and Lithuanians (Lithuanian *lietuviai;* German *Litauer*). The main distinction among these three groups was that they spoke different dialects of the Lithuanian language.

●[175] The Prussians were conquered by the Teutonic Order in the thirteenth century. Castles were built in the conquered regions, and around them German colonists settled. Within fifty years (by 1280) the Prussians had virtually come under German control, although they defended themselves vigorously. In 1243 and again in 1260 there were big uprisings. In the course of years the Prussians were partly exterminated, while those remaining were assimilated and eventually adopted the German language.[2] But as late as the eighteenth century Lithuanian was the dominating language of the population in the region stretching from Königsberg north and east to the Lithuanian-German border.

The Latvians (Letts) were divided into several tribes, namely, Kursiai, Zemgaliai, and Latgaliai. Another, wholly distinct, group called Livs (Latin *Libii*) lived in the basin of the Dauguva. This group belonged to the Ugro-Finnic family of nations, to which the Estonians, Finns, and Hungarians belong. When German merchants and missionaries began to visit the natives of the basin of the Dauguva, they first met the Liv tribes, and thereafter they referred to all of that country as Livonia. In this way the Teutonic Knights of that part of the country came to be known as the Livonian Order (*Fratres Militiae Christi* or Livonian Order of 186 Swordbearers). Despite over six centuries of subjugation to 101 the Germans and later to Russian rule and influence, the

[2] A. E. Ewald, *Die Eroberung Preussens durch den Deutschen* (The Robbery of Prussians by Germans), 1884, Vols. I–IV; M. Oeler, *Geschichte des deutschen Ritter Ordens* (The History of the Teutonic Knights), 1908.

Zs Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

Latvians have preserved their language and their national spirit. After the World War Latvia declared her independence and dropped the name of Livonia.[3]

The Lithuanians are considered to be the main division of the Aestii. They themselves were divided into Zemaiciai (Samogitians), Sudavai, Jotvingiai, and Aukstaiciai (Highlanders). At the end of the twelfth century the Lithuanians began to form a state, because continual wars with the Teutonic Order in the west (Prussia) and in the north (Livonia) forced them to unite. The first crowned king of Lithuania was Mindaugas (Mindow, Mendog), who conquered all the other chieftains, in 1251 adopted Christianity, which had been brought by the Teutonic Knights, and in 1253 was crowned.[4]

At the same time the Samogitians, who continued to fight the Knights of the Livonian Order, succeeded in checking them from making further inroads into the Lithuanian territories. In their effort to conquer the Samogitians, the Teutonic Knights in 1252 built a castle in the vicinity of Klaipeda, to which they gave the German name Memel.

Soon after the death of Mindaugas, Christianity disappeared almost completely in Lithuania.

In the period of 1295–1316 Lithuania was ruled by Vytenis (Witen), who was succeeded by Gediminas (Gedimin), 1316–41. So many Russian territories were incorporated in the latter's state that the new lands greatly exceeded in size ethnographic Lithuania. The title of the ruler in the documents was therefore *Rex Lithuanorum et Multorum Ruthenorum*.[5]

[3] Sapoka, *op. cit.*, p. 42.
[4] J. Totoraitis, *Die Litauer unter dem Koenig Mindowe* (The Lithuanians under King Mindowe), 1905.
[5] Sapoka, *op. cit.*, p. 60.

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

175 Gediminas left seven sons, of whom Algirdas (Olgird) was made grand duke of Lithuania, and Kestutis, whose seal bore the inscription *Sigillum Kynstutte Dux de Tracken*, was made grand duke of western Lithuania. They both carried on negotiations with the Teutonic Knights for the Christianizing of Lithuania, imposing as their chief condition that all the territories inhabited by Lithuanian tribes should be returned to them.

Algirdas at the time of his death (1377) appointed as his successor one of his sons, Jogaila (Jagello), who was supposed to rule Lithuania in coöperation with, and on the advice of, his uncle, Kestutis. However, after Kestutis's death Jogaila did not want to grant even any heritage rights to Kestutis's son Vytautas (Witold, Vitovt; his Great Seal was inscribed *Sigillum Alexandri Alias Witowdi Dei Gratia Ducis Lithuaniae*).

In 1384 a delegation of the Polish nobility offered to Jogaila in marriage the hand of the heiress to the Polish crown, Jadwiga, and in 1385 an agreement in the matter was reached. Close collaboration was established between the two sovereign states, Lithuania and Poland, an association from which Poland benefited.

Lithuania reached the peak of her greatness under Vytautas (1392–1430). During his reign, Lithuania extended from the Baltic Sea at Palanga to the Black Sea between the Dnieper and Dniester rivers. In 1410 he successfully led the Lithuanian armies in the battle of Grünwald at Tannenberg, now East Prussia, in which the joint Lithuanian and Polish forces defeated the Teuton, thereby bringing about the collapse of the powerful Teutonic Order. It is to be noted that this battle was led by two great Lithuanians—Vytautas, as

3; Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

grand duke of Lithuania, and his cousin Jogaila (Jagello- 175
Wladislaw), as king of Poland.

Near the end of his reign (1429) Vytautas decided to have himself crowned king of Lithuania. But the Polish noblemen and politicians, wishing to keep Lithuania a grand duchy under the crown of the Polish kingdom, opposed Vytautas's assumption of the crown. The most ardent foes of the creation of a separate kingdom of Lithuania were the Polish clergy under the leadership of Bishop Zbignev Olesnicki. Through the intrigues of Polish politicians the coronation was delayed, and Vytautas died uncrowned on October 27, 1430.

With the death of Vytautas the state began to disintegrate. No one of his successors was capable of ruling that big state so that its harmony and unity would be preserved. Besides, Poles and later Russians knew how to promote dissension among the various peoples residing within its borders.

The Union signed at the Lublin *Seimas* (diet), composed of Polish and Lithuanian representatives, in 1569 was the final act of Lithuania as a separate state. By this agreement a great part of the territory of the grand duchy of Lithuania was given to Poland. The feeling against the Union was intense. Katkewicz, a representative of the grand duchy of Lithuania, with tears in his eyes pleaded with the diet, the Lublin *Seimas*, against the signing of the agreement. The Lithuanian delegates went down on their knees in their entreaty to prevent the action. But in spite of their opposition, the will of the King and the Polish representatives prevailed and the Union was signed.[6]

In the years that followed this unhappy Union, the grand duchy of Lithuania experienced one misfortune after another.

[6] Sapoka, *op. cit.*, p. 226.

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

175 Her greatest disaster came in 1795 when, together with Poland, she was partitioned between Russia and Prussia. The greater part of ethnographic Lithuania was given to Russia and the lesser part, to Prussia.

Even though the Lithuanian-Polish state collapsed, the Lithuanian nation continued to exist, although it was badly impaired and its size diminished by more than two thirds.

642 Lithuanians were under the stern rule of Czarist Russia
648 for 123 years until, on the 16th of February, 1918, the National Council in Vilnius (Vilna) declared Lithuania an independent state, with ancient Vilnius as its capital.[7] On July 12, 1920, during the war between the Soviets and the Poles, Lithuania signed in Moscow with the Soviet government a peace treaty by which the city of Vilnius with the region about it was assigned to Lithuania.[8]

726 But the old Polish scheme began to manifest itself again.
648 After defeating the Soviet troops near Warsaw, the Poles appeared on the southern Lithuanian frontier and precipitated fighting with the Lithuanians. Finding the going more difficult than they expected, the Poles started negotiations which were carried on under the supervision of the League of Nations and resulted in the conclusion of the Treaty of Suvalkai[9] on October 7, 1920.[10] Two days later, however, the special Polish army, commanded by General Zeligowski, took the Lithuanians completely by surprise and occupied the city of Vilnius and the Vilnius region, comprising almost one
648 third of ethnographic Lithuania. This treacherous act re-

[7] See Appendix A for the text of the Declaration of Independence.

[8] Pranas Dailide, *Lietuvos Sutartys su Svetimomis Valstybemis*, Uzsieniu Reikalu Ministerijos leidinys, Tomas I, 1919–29. Recueil des traites conclus par la Lithuanie avec les pays étrangers, Publie par le Ministère des Affaires Étrangeres. I (1919–29), 30–52. See Appendix B for the extract from the text of the peace treaty with Russia.

[9] Dailide, *op. cit.*, pp. 58–61.

[10] See Appendix C for the text of the Treaty of Suvalkai.

10:Baltrusaitis R-4, 5 (no date)1948 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

between the surface and the underground layers change according to surroundings, background and era. Sometimes they tighten, at other times they have no balanced relationship. They seldom coalesce. Each stratum has its own measure of motion and time.

[101] A branch of the Indo-European family which to-day speaks one of Europe's oldest languages, the Lithuanians, settled away from the great travelled routes, were spared for a long period from revolutionary changes. The Iron Age was prolonged until the 12th century of our era. For all that, it was not an archaic culture. The objects found in graves are of an advanced type. Textile industry, metal objects, ceramics, fortifications are testimony of a clearly defined social structure and a political organization. According to the Ancients these populations were industrious and peaceful and devoted to a rustic life. The road of amber[2] from the deposits along the banks of their rivers, connected them with the Mediterranean world Gradually exchanges became more frequent. The pressure of the Goths did not directly affect these homes, but nevertheless, its repercussions were felt. In the period of migration the frontiers and the interior positions became more precise. The first strongholds called *"piliakalniai"* — were erected at strategic points. Soon Scandinavians and Russians appeared upon the scene. King Olaf of Sweden attacked the city of Apulia, — the Apuolé of to-day — Kiev menaced the people of Nemunas (Niemen), but later became a goal of Lithuanian conquests. In the West, Rimbert, a monk of Corbie, was one of the first in the IXth century to report on a township called Apuolé.

[175] [172]

These different movements did not destroy the unity of development, but on the contrary strengthened it. Subsistence of faiths and practices continued. Entrance into history proper did not put an end to their existence. It was not a rupture, but a new phase. The prehistoric gods were not dead. For a long period adoration of the forces of nature, the stars, the thunder and all the genii of field and forest persisted. Princes were baptized in the 13th and 14th centuries, but the people's religion remained unimpaired. Penetrating the country, Christianity had to face the local myths. Frequently it mixed with them: Christ and *"Perkúnas"*, the Thunderer, had the same worshippers. It was the same favor which was transferred from the one to the other. This fidelity did not mean retrogression. Lithuania had her historic mission. She marks the limit of the barbarian

2 [Errata: Should be The Amber-road. Cf. Errata Sheet, p. 204, cat. 116--- Analyst]

invasion; she is the principal obstacle against Teutonic hegemony. In 1239 Mindaugas had taken possession of Smolensk. He consolidated his positions in the South-East and dared to oppose the Order of Chivalry which was already master of Courland and East Prussia. In order to disarm his enemies he became a convert in 1251. The knights accompanied by the Bishop of Culm, brought him the grand ducal crown. But only a short time later the struggle was resumed and Mindaugas relapsed to his old faith.

The country was invaded. Gediminas freed it in 1320. But this striking success gave rise to new dangers. A coalition was forming against the victorious Lithuanians; Germans, French, Spaniards, Czechs and Danes prepared to attack the pagans. But at that moment the *"kunigaikstis"*, the Grand Duke had himself baptized. Secure in the North he turned again to the South East towards Kiev, thus laying the foundation of the Lithuanian empire. In 1341 he was killed by the knights of the Teutonic Order. After a period of troubles his two sons, Algirdas and Keistutis, divided the power between themselves. Under the reign of Keistutis' son, Vytautas the Great, Lithuania reached the apex of power. By the Treaty of Vilnius (Vilna) in 1401, Vytautas was recognized as Grand Duke. Within a few years he re-established and enlarged the empire, which now stretched from the Black Sea to the Baltic. A Lithuanian governor was established in Kiev. Lithuanian strongholds were erected along the course of the Dnieper and the Bug protecting the route from Palanga to Odessa. The Grand Duke intervened even in the elections of the Khans of Tartary. In Vilnius he played the part of a great European sovereign. In 1410, allied with the Poles, the Lithuanians crushed the Teutonic Order of Knighthood at Tannenberg and the Order never recovered from this defeat.

In the course of the 15th century the relations with Poland became still more close. A number of alliances were negotiated, which culminated in the Treaty of Lublin. The Grand Duke Jagellon married Queen Hedwig[1] of Anjou. The two countries were united under the same sceptre, but each of them retained its government and its institutions. In 1569 the union of the two states was realized. Lithuania preserved an autonomous administration, but from that date on she shared the fate of her neighbour. The Grand Duchy is still to be found on some maps of the 18th century, but after the successive division[2] of Poland, it fell into the hands of the Russians.

[1] [Errata: should be the Polish Queen Hedwig. Cf. Errata sheet, p. 204, cat. 116---Analyst]

[2] [Errata: should be successive divisions. Cf. Errata sheet, p. 204, cat. 116---Analyst]

175 During this period the social conflicts rooted in the past gradually grew more serious. The mass of the peasantry and the provincial nobility separated from each other and became two antagonistic worlds. The one became absorbed in itself and remained true to its secular traditions. The other, influenced by Poland, endeavoured to take an ever increasing part in the intellectual life of the West.

Under Russian domination an era of decay began, which was marked by revolts, repressions and disasters. The Great Army appeared as a liberator, and Napoleon proclaimed the independence of the country from Vilnius. Lithuanian regiments joined his troops. But this was only an episode of the struggle. Further insurrections took place in 1831 and 1863. They were followed by deportations to Siberia and a mass emigration to the United States. More than a million, one third of the Lithuanians, found shelter and a new home in the latter country. The treasures of art which were collected by the nobility were dispersed and destroyed. In 1865 a decree was issued prohibiting publications in the Lithuanian language. Centres of resistance however were successfully established in the Russian universities, as also in Königsberg, in London and in America. Students and smugglers clandestinely introduced prohibited books, periodicals and calendars. Theatrical performances were held in barns. The folklore, the ancient folk songs served as a rallying sign. But it was only after World War I, after having suffered a long German occupation, that the country recovered its independence. Twenty years of fervent and pious work showed what a small but free nation is able to accomplish. The country was happy at last, — World War II destroyed this. Renewed occupations and deportations, a new exodus, destruction by fire and iron, subjugation by neighbouring nations succeeded one another without interruption. Few peoples have had so tragic a fate, even in war-ravaged Europe. But Lithuania will not be subdued. She believes in the power of justice.

000 Such is the outline of the history of Lithuania. All through the tempest of the ages the people continued to perform its tasks. But it did not remain insensible to the vicissitudes of the changing eras. New forms of life are grafted on secular traditions. Sun and thunder worship gives way to medieval Christianity, but still survives in the *"dainos"*. The currents of Western art succeed each other and leave deep traces. Contacts with

1 [Errata: should be country at. Cf. Errata sheet p. 204, cat. 116. --- Analyst]

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

MONOGRAPH OF LITHUANIA

INTRODUCTION

175
101 The Lithuania of to-day is situated between East Prussia, Poland and Latvia. In the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Lithuania was an independent State which, having conquered vast stretches of White Russia and Ukraine, extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea; her civilisation was that of Western Europe. At the close of the fourteenth century, Lithuania established with Poland a personal union, which was subsequently converted into a real union. For centuries, the conditions governing her existence were the same as for Poland. With the partition of 1795, practically the whole of ethnographical Lithuania was annexed by Russia, which ruled the territory until 1915.

A vast region inhabited by a population of Lithuanian origin and extending westwards almost as far as Marienburg had been conquered by the Germans in the tenth and twelfth centuries.

175
181 As long as Lithuania remained under the dominion of Russia, her economic and cultural level was conditioned by

p 5 [p. 4 is blank]

11:League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

this circumstance and remained inferior to that of the more progressive countries of Western Europe. Most of her peasant farmers, who were not released from serfdom until 1862-1865, were still living under the same conditions as in the Middle Ages. They owned narrow strips of land, practised the old three-year crop rotation, had common grazing land in a very neglected condition, bred only native stock and relied almost exclusively on cereal crops. Farming methods were thus very primitive and the farmer's income very small, while the houses were almost entirely of wood with thatched or wooden roofs.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, intellectuals, who were still few in number, began to take an interest in rural life : they cut up part of the communal land to form separate farms, organised more paying forms of activity, carried on active propaganda for the improvement of rural dwellings and encouraged the introduction of more rational methods of work. Their efforts met invariably with systematic opposition from the Russian Government.

During the world war, Lithuania was for many months the scene of hostilities. From 1915 to the end of 1918, the Germans occupied the country, which was the victim of requisitions of all kinds and lost much of its wealth.

The Proclamation of Lithuanian independence was followed by a strong movement of national renaissance and rural reconstruction. The Government's task was a difficult one. Tremendous efforts were made to build up a country which was just emerging from war ; farming methods were improved and land reform was instituted. Communal land was redistributed, undeveloped estates were broken up, new branches of agriculture were developed — dairying, pig-breeding, poultry-farming ; numerous schools of agriculture were founded, such roads as existed were rebuilt, and new means of communication were opened. In a word, the farmer's life was to be reorganised on modern lines. True, not all these ideals have proved capable of fulfilment in so short a time ; but great strides have been made, and present day agriculture in Lithuania differs profoundly from the pre-war conditions obtaining in that country.

* * *

Lithuania now consists in the main of small and medium-sized rural properties. A farm of 5 or 6 hectares provides an adequate livelihood for an average working farmer's family. An estate of 80 or 100 hectares is also regarded as a working peasant's farm, as it is generally run by the owner in person. Farms ranging from 5 to 100 hectares account for over 90 % of the agricultural land. Miniature farms up to 2 hectares represent only 0.44 % of the area under cultivation, which is all

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704
EP4 Lapps
Letts R84
Lithuanians R85

Le
635
728
648

to ſubmit under the Protection of *Sigiſmund Auguſtus* King of *Poland*, who made *Courland* a Dukedom, and gave it to *Goddard Kettler* of *Neſſelrath*, the laſt Maſter of the *Teutonick* Order in *Livonia*, to hold it as a Fief of the Crown of *Poland*. But *William* the youngeſt Son of this *Goddard*, who ſucceeded his elder Brother in the Government, was diſpoſſeſſed of his Dominions by *Sigiſmund* III. King of *Poland*, and lived in Exile till 1619, when he was reſtored to the Dukedom, whoſe Poſterity enjoy it to this Day.

Le
636

The *Poles* alſo remain to this Day poſſeſs'd of ſome inconſiderable Places of the *South* ſide of the River *Dwina* or *Dune*, among which *Dunaburgh* is the only Place worth taking notice of.

Li
103
133
131
504
712
175
727

The Dutchy of *Memel* is likewiſe a part of the *Southern Livonia*: Its Capital City bearing the ſame Name, is Situate upon, and encompaſs'd by, the River *Tanger*, which not far from thence exonerates it ſelf into the Sea, in the Gulph call'd the Lake of *Courland*, and affords a very Commodious Harbour to this little but pleaſant Town: Its Caſtle is very well Fortified; it was *An.* 1250. built by the Maſter of the Order of *Livonia*, and in 1328. ſold by them to the Maſter of the *Pruſſian* Knights. In the Truce made in the Year 1635, betwixt the *Poles* and *Swedes*, it was Stipulated, that the ſaid City and Dukedom ſhould be ſurrendred to the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, who ever ſince remains in poſſeſſion of it.

CHAP. II.

Of the Antient Inhabitants of Livonia, *and their Superſtitions and Cuſtoms.*

Le
195

IT is beyond all diſpute, that *Livonia* remain'd for a long time involved in the Darkneſs of Paganiſm and Idolatry, this Country being quite unknown in theſe Parts, till in the Year 1158, a Merchant Ship of *Bremen* (or as ſome will have it of *Lubeck*) being forced by a Tempeſt into the Gulph of *Riga*, made the firſt